GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6854
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD APPRENTICE
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Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference between a child labour and a child apprentice;

(b) if so, the manner in which these two are classified; and

(c) the number of occassions when the schemes launched for the child labourers have been reviewed so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 definesa `Child` as a person who has not completed his or her fourteenth year of age. On the other hand, as per the Apprentice Act, 1961, `apprentice` means a person who is undergoing apprenticeship training in pursuance of a contract of apprenticeship. A person shall not be qualified for being engaged as an apprentice to undergo aprenticeship training in any designated trade, unless he (a) is not less than fourteen years of age and (b) satisfies such standards or education and physical fitness as may be prescribed.

(c): The Government of India has been implementing two schemesfor the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations.
The Projects are continuously monitored through receipt of periodical reports and returns and reviews at the Centre, State and District levels. A Central Monitoring Committee, under the Chairmanship of Labour Secretary, has also been set up for the overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the NCLPs.The working of child labour projects has recently been reviewed in a National Conference on Child Laobur held in January2001. A large scale evaluation of selected NCLPshas also recently been taken up. Completed evaluations have shown that the magnitude of the child labour problem can be considerably reduced through the rehabilitation measures by the projects.